

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06314 110859Z

11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 FAA-00

DOT-00 CAB-02 /026 W

----- 012248

R 110455Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 985

AMCONSUL KARACHI

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION ABOARD PARKED PIA AIRCRAFT

REFERENCE: (A) ISLAMABAD 6158

(B) KARACHI 1389

1. PIA CHIEF NUR KHAN JULY 9 REVEALED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE JULY 5 EXPLOSION ABOARD A PARKED PIA AIRCRAFT IN RAWALPINDI. ACCORDING TO REUTERS CORRESPONDENT GRAHAM STEWART, WHO SAYS THAT NUR KHAN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO INITIATE A CONVERSATION WITH HIM AT RAWALPINDI AIRPORT, THE PIA CHAIRMAN ADMITTED THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSE BY A PLASTIC BOMB WHICH BLEW TWO HOLES IN THE AIRCRAFT, ONE IN THE SIDE AND ANOTHER IN THE BOTTOM. TO COUNTER ANY FURTHER BOMBING ATTEMPTS, KHAN NOTED, PIA HAS ALREADY INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES AT ALL AIRPORTS. AND, APPARENTLY TO ADVISE ON THESE, THE PAKS HAVE REQUESTED THE SERVICES OF AN AMERICAN EXPERT. (EMBASSY HAD NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF THIS, ASSUMES THAT IT WAS DONE THROUGH PAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR DIRECTLY THROUGH PIA CHANNELS.) KHAN TOLD STEWART THAT THE GOP, (THROUGH, WE ASSUME, THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATING AGENCY), NOW HAS TOTAL CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING THE MATTER. HE SAID THE PIA HAS CONCLUDED ITS INVESTIGATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06314 110859Z

2. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR THE BOMBING,

KHAN DISCOUNTED TWO CURRENT RUMORS: A. THAT THE DEVICE WAS PLANTED BY A DISGRUNTLED AIRLINE EMPLOYEE WITH A GRUDGE GROWING OUT OF A RECENT LABOR UNION SQUABBLE; AND B. THAT IT WAS AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI WHO WAS ABOARD FLIGHT 308 ENROUTE HOME FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SRI LANKA. WHILE DISMISSING THESE RUMORS, KHAN "PRIVATELY" REPEATED WHAT IS TODAY'S GOVERNMENT LINE: THAT THE BOMB WAS PLANTED BY TERRORISTS/CONNECTED WITH THE NOW BANNED NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY. (THIS CHARGE WAS MADE JULY 9 IN SUPREME COURT HEARING ON NAP BY INTER-SERVICES INTELLIGENCE CHIEF, LT. GENERAL JILANI, SEE ALSO SEPTTEL.)

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING FROM KARACHI ANYTHING THEY MAY KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN EXPERT KHAN SAYS PAKS HAVE CALLED IN.
LUPPI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, BOMBING, SABOTAGE, EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA06314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750239-1209
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750765/aaaacggr.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ISLAMABAD 6158
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPLOSION ABOARD PARKED PIA AIRCRAFT
TAGS: PINS, PK, PIA
To: STATE KARACHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006